

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request further examination and reconsideration in view of the above amendments. Claims 1-3 and 5-19 remain pending in the case. Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8-10 and 13 are rejected. Claims 4, 7, 11 and 12 are objected to. Claims 14-19 are allowed. Claim 1 is amended herein. No new matter has been added. Claim 4 is cancelled herein without prejudice.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 4, 7, 11 and 12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of their base Claims and any intervening Claims. Claim 1 has been amended herein to include the limitation of Claim 4. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that objected claims 7, 11 and 12 are now allowable as these claims are dependent on allowable base claims.

Applicants respectfully point out that Claim 1 has been amended to remove the limitation of "wherein at least one stripe of the plurality of stripes spans opposing edges of the image" as recited in independent Claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is allowable as all previous Office Actions had indicated that Claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of their base Claims and any intervening Claims, and that the removed limitation was not considered in the previous determination by the Examiner that Claim 4 would be allowable if

rewritten in independent form including the limitations of their base Claims and any intervening Claims.

Applicants also wish to thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 14-19 are allowed.

35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent 5,900,953 by Bottou et al., hereinafter referred to as the "Bottou" reference, in view of United States Patent 6,373,981 by de Queiroz et al., hereinafter referred to as the "de Queiroz '981" reference. Claim 1 has been amended herein to include the limitation of Claim 4 which was indicated by the Examiner as being allowable if it was rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base Claim and any intervening Claims. Therefore, a discussion of the rejection of independent Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is moot at this time. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2 and 3 overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as these claims are dependent on allowable base claims.

Claims 5, 6, 8-10 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bottou in view of de Queiroz '981, and further in view of and "On data Filling Algorithms for MRC Layers" by de Queiroz, hereinafter referred to as the "Data Filling" reference. Claims 5, 6, 8-10 and 13 are dependent on

allowable base Claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended herein to include the limitation of Claim 4 which was indicated by the Examiner as being allowable if it was rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base Claim and any intervening Claims. Therefore, a discussion of the rejection of independent Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is moot at this time. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 5, 6, 8-10 and 13 overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as these claims are dependent on allowable base claims.

CONCLUSION


In light of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejected claims. Based on the arguments presented above, Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 1-3 and 5-13 overcome the rejections and objections of record and, therefore, Applicants respectfully solicit allowance of these Claims.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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